

MEETING SUMMARY
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY GROUP
September 10, 2001

Members Attending

William Anderson, agricultural community (9-9)
Vince Berg, business community (9-9)
John Buric, agricultural community (6-9)
Chris Choppin, business community (2-3)
Todd Greenfield, agricultural community (2-3)
Doug Holy, environmental community, Vice-chair (8-9)
Robert Johnson, scientific/academic community (7-9)
John Kuriawa, environmental community (3-3)
Jeff Longsworth, public-at-large (7-9)
Lynn Mayo, scientific/academic community (8-9)
Chris Namovicz, public-at-large (9-9)
Ben Nicholson, scientific/academic community (3-3)
Diane S. Shea, public-at-large (8-9)

Public Agency Reps

Dr. Mohammad Habibian, public agency, WSSC (9-9)
Cameron Wiegand, public agency, DEP (9-9)

Members Absent

Shobhana Sharma, business community, **Chair** (7-9)
Jeff Zyontz, public agency, M-NCPPC (5-9)




Others Attending

Rick Brush, DPS
Boyd Church, DEP
Diane M. Davis, DEP
Mike Reahl, DPS
Doug Redmond, M-NCPPC



IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEXT 2 WQAG MEETINGS are as listed:

-  **Tuesday, October 9th**, 2001, same time & location
-  **Monday December 3rd**, same time & location
-  There is **NO meeting** scheduled for **November** 2001

Welcome & Discussion/Approval of Agenda & Previous Month's Summary

The Vice-chair, Doug Holy, opened the meeting by asking for changes to either summary or agenda. Mr. Anderson said he had a comment to add at meeting's end, and Ms. Davis, Coordinator, said she also had two logistical additional items to add. Lynn Mayo noted a misspelling of her name in a previous summary, and that she had been listed incorrectly with the outreach effort. Both corrections were noted on the record. With no other changes to either, B. Nicholson moved to approve both, and R. Johnson seconded, and the Group unanimously concurred.

Rick Brush of the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) introduced colleague Mike Reahl, likely to attend future meetings representing DPS on water quality issues (replacing Bruce Payne). Mike offered his telephone number as 240-777-6344 for any members with questions or concerns.

Stormwater Management Charge Amendment - Boyd Church, DEP, handed out an amendment to Bill 28-00 (going soon to the Transportation and Environment [T&E] Committee) to "authorize County to levy and collect a stormwater management charge." He very briefly highlighted a few points, including:

- Original bill #28-00 now has 2 amendments to it
- Amendment handed out tonight will go to the T&E Committee on September 17, 2001
- There may also be another amendment forthcoming which has not yet been sent to the Executive.

There was brief discussion on the need to increase a section/component on enforcement, but the Group agreed they would need a look at the entire bill in order for their input to be in context and fully useful. Mr. Church offered his email as boyd@askdep.com or tel. 240-777-7760 for any further discussion or questions. Mr. Berg said he needed any members' comments within the next 30 days to allow the subcommittee to incorporate them properly. He offered to transmit to all members the subcommittee report or findings when available. The topic was closed by comments from Rick Brush, DPS, saying that there are likely to be still more changes forthcoming from the county attorney.

Groundwater Update

The Vice-chair asked the Coordinator if she had received from the Chair a progress fact sheet to distribute. Ms. Davis reported that any fact sheet/update likely went to the Chair, who was absent for tonight. Mr. Berg, who sat in on several meetings, offered that the Groundwater Group's current emphasis is on establishing a reliable database within the county. With no additional detail for the full Group to review, the Vice-chair asked for the topic to be carried into October's agenda.

Outreach

Doug Holy, Vice-chair, opened the discussion by explaining that he, Ben Nicholson, and John Kuriawa had worked together and met with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) representatives since the last WQAG meeting regarding the Chesapeake Bay Trust Concept Grant. MCPS was unaware of the grant opportunity, glad to be hear of it and were planning to apply it towards a possible project involving the County's only Global Ecology school, Poolesville High School. The details were as yet indeterminate, but he reminded the WQAG that they are not a legally viable applicant – e.g., they are not a formalized not-for-profit organization and must rely upon other applicants (such as MCPS) to apply. He hoped that *if* a grant was awarded to MCPS, the WQAG could coordinate efforts and might entertain a field trip/visit to the school to see its impressive environmental science lab and program. Mr. Holy offered many more details (about the background fact-finding meeting and about the background subgroup discussions), as did Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Kuriawa. Fundamentally, they stressed the importance of having a grant help to reach more residents about watershed concerns and issues, and what possibly offer assistance to DEP in their ongoing outreach efforts. Mr. Holy would like to see many more schools be made aware of the Global Ecology Program, as it seemed to be isolated and not as visible as it could be. Grants run approximately \$10,000, and a proposal

would be the next step, with actual work beginning in February or March of 2002. He offered the website to visit www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/poolesvillehs/global and asked to keep this item on future agendas.

Special Protection Area Program

Special Protection Area Issues – Mr. Wiegand, DEP, referred members to the DEP memo which had been sent with the mailing packet. In addition to the memo outlining background information, the packet contained the *Clarksburg Master Plan & Hyatt town Special Study Area*, 1994. Mr. Wiegand summarized his memo to highlight the SPA roles and/or specific actions for each agency/department: Department of Permitting Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission. He said that the intent of the SPA Program is to be proactive and ensure that environmentally sensitive areas are protected and that the sites be developed in a way that minimizes stream impacts.

Todd Greenstone expressed concern that farmers/landscape operators and nurseries in Paint Branch watershed are experiencing a change in requirements associated with their special exemption permits. He didn't understand how the county could make such changes suddenly. Several members offered explanations, including: when operations grow larger and exceed the size and scale of the originally permitted use; or when modifications may have led to greater areas of imperviousness. In short, that significant changes in area, scale, or operation size and method can lead to the permit being revoked or changed from the one originally granted. Because issues surrounding this topic remained outstanding, the Vice-chair asked for it to go onto the November/December agenda list for the agriculture representatives to cover. All agreed.

Landowner Encroachment Issues

Bob Johnson handed out a draft WQAG resolution and letter that he and Ben Nicholson had drafted to address the issues which arose from last meeting after hearing from M-NCPPC attorney on private landowner encroachment in park property. He applauded assistance he had received from others in compiling the resolution and all were asked to review it and comment. Many members had comments, notably Chris Namovicz and Vince Berg, who felt that the resolution was overly prescriptive in tone and lacked acknowledgement of a possible need for additional M-NCPPC resources to carry out the enforcement approach recommended in the resolution. Doug Redmond, M-NCPPC, expressed that his agency knew how to improve operations and did not need prescriptive details outlined.

After lengthy discussion, Jeff Longsworth and Diane Shea provided input as to specific wording and final comments for the resolution and then asked for a vote. The Vice-chair asked for the Coordinator to read back the text and a vote was taken. Eleven votes were in favor of passing and immediately transmitting the resolution as crafted during the meeting, while two votes opposed on the grounds as stated previously. The resolution would be sent to the Chair for final signature on the transmittal letter and forwarding to the County Executive, County Council and the Planning Board.

New & Continued Business

- Stormwater Subcommittee Update [*covered earlier*]- Vince Berg had no report ready for the Group and asked that the topic be carried into next month's agenda. The Vice-chair agreed.
- Biographies – Coordinator asked for members who had not sent her summarized biographies, to please do so. She asked for members to be aware of differing versions: 1) for internal use of members only; 2) to appear on a public website. Mr. Buric had been asking for bios for up to two years.

Miscellaneous

1. **Mr. Anderson's comment** involved the use of State Highway Administration's practice of spraying herbicides to control/kill vegetation on roadways and highways. He thought this was an unsound practice and asked to Group to consider options and think about what action, if any, might be taken.
2. The **Executive's Annual Reception** is scheduled for Sunday, October 14th, 2001 at the South Germantown Recreation Center Soccerplex at Discovery Sports from 2:00-4:00 p.m. They hope to have a radio-controlled air show, weather-permitting.
3. **Annual Meeting with the Executive** is scheduled for Monday, October 22nd, 2001 at 8:30 p.m. in the Executive Office Building 2nd Floor Conference Room (101 Monroe Street, with free parking under the building). Ms. Davis reminded that Group that select members should attend, rather than all members, due to spatial limitations. Mr. Duncan has asked to hear from Air/Energy, Noise then the Water Advisory Groups in one session (in that order), and the room will be quite full with representatives from those three groups. Normally the Chair, Vice-chair and two other members attend. On the contrary, Mr. Anderson thought that everyone was welcome and reported that he always participates.
4. **Increased Electronic Communication** – Ms. Davis reported that she is continuing to work with the Department of Information and Systems Technology (DIST) to create a threaded discussion option (web-based listserve or bulletin board) in response to the WQAG request from August. She reported on discussions with a County attorney who had cautioned on several notes: that email forums must never replace the regular physical meetings; because 2 members have no email available to them, the WQAG cannot make full use of electronic communications since they would essentially be excluded from such communication; and that bulletin boards must not violate the Maryland State Open Meetings Act.
5. Ms. Davis mentioned that Kraig Walslaben, representative from the environmental category, had stepped down from the Group, creating a **membership vacancy**. An announcement for new recruiting would be forthcoming from the Executive's Office, widely distributed, and she asked all members to alert qualified associates or colleagues to apply.
6. **Community Service Day** falls on Saturday, October 27, 2001, but the County Volunteer Center acknowledges community service any time throughout the month of October. Ms. Davis encouraged all members to find individual or watershed-wide activities in which to participate and promote stewardship. She handed out information sheets on several forthcoming activities throughout the County. Visit their website for many other activities <http://www.co.mo.md.us/services/volunteer/>. She mentioned that the Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed will be sponsoring a new training workshop followed by a weekend monitoring with date undetermined, but in the month of October. Also handed out were flyers for Audubon Naturalist Society workshops and an update from DEP and HHS about west Nile virus.
7. Ms. Davis handed out a semi-final draft of the 6th **Annual Report to the Executive** and Council for review. The Chair had already reviewed and provided comments, and asked for last minute comments to be given to the Coordinator right away so that transmittal could occur before the two forthcoming Executive events.

October 2001 Topics & Future Meeting Dates

The Group discussed that the 3rd Monday in October was not feasible for several members and they asked the Coordinator to find a better date, possibly the 2nd Tuesday in October. They also deleted the November meeting and asked for it to occur on Monday, December 3, 2001. Ms. Davis said she would need to secure a room and would announce it as soon as possible.

- Stormwater Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee members
- Outreach Activities continued – Subcommittee members: J. Kuriawa, D. Holy, B. Nicholson
- Groundwater Update – S. Sharma, Chair

December 3, 2001 Topic – Group to Determine topics

- Agricultural and urban nonpoint sources and pollution management programs
- Stormwater NPDES report [\[historically falls in October\]](#)
- Commercial/industrial NPDES program needs assessment; including problems associated with industrial sites in the Southlawn Lane [\[historically falls in October\]](#)